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Letter dated 24 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a position paper of the Government of Costa Rica (see annex) concerning the reconstruction of Iraq following the present armed conflict, with a view to ensuring that the greatest possible multilateral efforts should be made for that high purpose.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Stagno Ugarte**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Position paper of the Government of Costa Rica concerning the reconstruction of Iraq

The Government of Costa Rica:

1. Calls upon the parties to the conflict to respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Iraq, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

2. Requests that States having troops in Iraqi territory comply fully with their international obligations under international humanitarian law and, in particular, under the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Optional Protocols thereto of 1977.

3. Emphasizes the need to guarantee the safety and the inalienable human rights of the civilian population, particularly their right to life and to integrity of person.

4. Demands full respect for international humanitarian law and international refugee law with a view to providing the broadest possible protection to all refugees, internally displaced persons and victims of hostilities and calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to give immediate attention to this situation.

5. Demands that the fundamental rights of prisoners of war, irregular combatants and all other detainees be respected, pursuant to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Optional Protocols thereto of 1977.

6. Strongly declares its belief that the building of a legitimate, lasting and sustainable peace in Iraq can be achieved only through multilateral action within the framework of the United Nations.

7. Emphasizes the necessity of establishing a temporary administrative regime in Iraq, under United Nations supervision and control, in order to guarantee a climate of stability and create the conditions necessary for lasting peace and respect for human rights.

8. Stresses the need for Iraq to comply fully with all its disarmament obligations and to be free of weapons of mass destruction. It also calls upon Iraq not to allow its territory to become a haven for international terrorist organizations.

9. Calls upon the United Nations to manage Iraq's natural resources, particularly oil, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in order to provide humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable population groups and to finance the country's reconstruction, bearing in mind the best interests of the Iraqi people.

10. Emphasizes the essential role of the United Nations in defining and implementing the principal objectives for the reconstruction of Iraq and calls upon the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme to make a detailed inventory of the economic impact of the war and of the international cooperation needed for reconstruction.

11. Calls upon the international community, particularly the warring States, to cooperate with Iraq in repairing the environmental damage caused by the conflict.

12. Expresses its firm intention to contribute, to the best of its ability, to international humanitarian assistance agencies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations specialized agencies, in their programmes for the reconstruction of Iraq.

13. Reiterates its full support for the United Nations specialized agencies responsible for applying the principles of humanitarian law and human rights in situations of armed conflict and post-war situations.